United States Department of Agriculture | **Forest Service** | **Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry** | **180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101**

File Code: 3410 (NA-13-05)
Date: May 23, 2013

Subject: 2013 Gypsy Moth Survey

To: Erin Connelly, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest

In the spring of 2013, personnel from the Allegheny National Forest and Northeastern Area, Forest Health Protection, Morgantown Field Office conducted gypsy moth egg mass surveys on the Allegheny National Forest. The purpose of these surveys was to estimate gypsy moth population densities through egg mass counts (1/40th acre plots) and predict spring defoliation levels.

This year's survey was confined to 20 recreation areas spread across the forest (Figure 1). Gypsy moth egg masses were found at 17 of the 20 sites surveyed, and new egg masses were found at 12 of the 20 sites surveyed. Six sites had egg mass densities above the treatment threshold (Table 1). Based on these results the ANF can expect defoliation to occur this spring across the forest (Table 2.). We will continue to assist the Forest in: (a) monitoring the extent and severity of this defoliation and (b) performing egg mass surveys in the fall. The results of this work will be the basis for recommending to you the need for any gypsy moth treatments in 2014.

District Rangers and other field-going personnel can assist our efforts through on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office. Activity such as an unusually high numbers of caterpillars present in the forest in early spring and summer may be a prelude to an expanded defoliation event.

If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte or Ann Steketee at (304) 285-1503.

Sincerely,

Robert Lueckel

Field Representative

Morgantown Field Office

Cc: District Ranger, Bradford RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Marienville RD w/enclosures
Andrea Hille, Forest Silviculturist

RMT/AKS

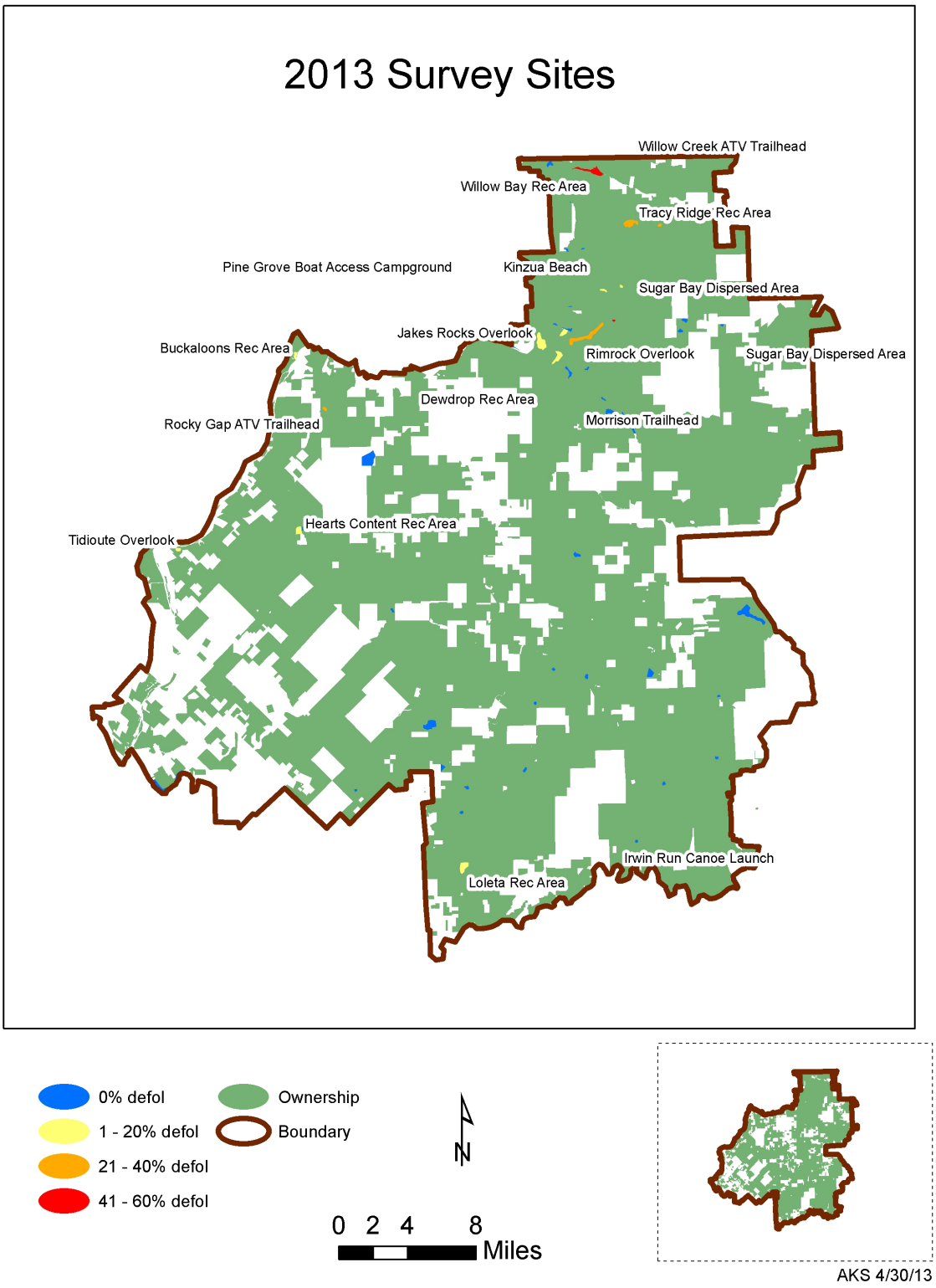

Figure 1. Gypsy moth survey result for the spring of 2013, with predicted defoliation level, Allegheny National Forest.

Table 1. Allegheny National Forest gypsy moth survey sites for 2013**.**

Survey Site	Acres	Plots	Priority	Em/ac	SD	Predicted Defoliation	Susceptibility
Rimrock Overlook	311.4	12	1	246	363	<30	High
Jakes Rocks Overlook	230.7	9	2	102	152	<20	High
Dewdrop Rec Area	126.3	5	3	104	136	<20	High
Tidioute Overlook	34.9	3	4	53	61	<20	High
Hearts Content Rec Area	98.1	4	5	10	20	<20	High
Morrison Trailhead	11.5	3	6	1105	425	50	High
Kinzua Beach	71.8	4	7	20	40	<20	High
Rocky Gap ATV Trailhead	29.3	3	8	720	672	30	High
Tracy Ridge Rec Area	166.6	6	9	952	890	40	High
Irwin Run Canoe Launch	12.3	3	10	0	0	<20	High
Willow Bay Rec Area	205.1	8	11	1409	1307	60	High
Buckaloons Rec Area	44.6	3	12	80	32	<20	High
Willow Creek ATV Trailhead	25.6	3	13	720	683	30	High
Sugar Bay Dispersed Area	41.8	3	14	102	100	<20	High
Pine Grove Boat Access CG	5.1	3	15	0	0	0	High
Loleta Campground	145.9	6	16	43	48	<20	High
Robin Island	.	3	17	0	0	0	High
Upper Pines	.	3	18	0	0	0	High
Lower Pines	.	3	19	73	127	<20	High
Millstone	.	4	20	148	114	<20	High
Total	1768	91	20	294	258		

Table 2. Egg mass density thresholds for resource management objectives.

Threshold (egg masses/acres)	Predicted Defoliation	Objectives
250	< 30[1] %	Nuisance Abatement
251-500	30 - 40 % (Light)	Prevent Noticeable Defoliation
501-1000	41 - 60 % (Moderate)	Prevent Growth Loss
>1000	> 60 % (Heavy)	Prevent Mortality

[1] None or background level of defoliation.